

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

display to each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

2. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

calculate for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a shipping rate for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

3. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed to:

determine for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a delivery schedule for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

4. A computer system for displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network

1 using a client computer device, each user having an individual electronic connection to the  
2 global communications network, said computer system programmed to:

3 calculate for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers a  
4 shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel according to a set of parcel characteristics  
5 shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each  
6 particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set of parcel specifications  
7 for the particular parcel input by the particular user and as applied to an origin postal code  
8 and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and

9 generate an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display  
10 monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

11  
12 5. The computer system of Claim 4, said computer system programmed to:  
13 determine a delivery schedule for each of the plurality of services offered by each of  
14 the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel .

15  
16 6. The computer system of Claim 5 wherein the generated online comparison  
17 display further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the services for delivering  
18 the particular package.

19  
20 7. A computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping each of a  
21 plurality of parcels to be shipped by one of a plurality of users according to a plurality of  
22 carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications  
23 network using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an  
24 individual electronic connection to the global communications network, said computer  
25 system programmed to:

26 collect as parcel specifications for a particular parcel a user input from one of the  
27 plurality of users wherein said user input comprising at least one of: a package type, package  
28 dimensions, package weight, and a value of the particular parcel;

29 collect from the particular user a user input of an origin zip code and an exemplary

1 destination zip code; and

2 generate an online comparison display to a display monitor configured with the user  
3 client computer device of the particular user a preview of shipping rates for a plurality of  
4 services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel wherein said  
5 preview shipping rates are calculated according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping  
6 rules for each of the plurality of carriers and according to a set of pricing rules for each of the  
7 plurality of services offered by each particular carrier as applied to the parcel specifications  
8 and as applied to the origin zip code and the exemplary destination zip code.

9  
10 8. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
11 computer system programmed to:

12 compare each shipping rate for shipping a particular parcel with each of a plurality of  
13 services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a shipping rate for shipping the  
14 particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by each of a  
15 plurality of carriers.

16  
17 9. The shipping management computer system of Claim 8, said shipping  
18 management computer system further programmed to:

19 determine the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

20  
21 10. The shipping management computer system of Claim 9, said shipping  
22 management computer system further programmed to:

23 generate a report of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

24  
25 11. The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report  
26 of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.

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28 12. The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report  
29 of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises an audible

1 announcement.  
2

3 13. The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report  
4 comprises a visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer  
5 the lowest shipping rate and of the shipping rate.  
6

7 14. The shipping management computer system of Claim 10 wherein said report  
8 comprises an audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the  
9 lowest shipping rate and of the shipping rate.  
10

11 15. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
12 computer system programmed to:

13 compare each delivery schedule for shipping a particular parcel with each of a  
14 plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a delivery schedule for  
15 shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by  
16 each of a plurality of carriers.  
17

18 16. The shipping management computer system of Claim 15, said shipping  
19 management computer system further programmed to:

20 determine the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule.  
21

22 17. The shipping management computer system of Claim 16, said shipping  
23 management computer system further programmed to:

24 generate a report of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule.  
25

26 18. The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report  
27 of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual  
28 display.  
29

1           19.     The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report  
2 of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible  
3 announcement.  
4

5           20.     The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report  
6 comprises a visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer  
7 the earliest delivery schedule and of the delivery schedule.  
8

9           21.     The shipping management computer system of Claim 17 wherein said report  
10 comprises an audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the  
11 earliest delivery schedule and of the delivery schedule.  
12

13          22.     A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of  
14 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:  
15         displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a preview of  
16 shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, wherein each user accesses  
17 the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device,  
18 wherein each user having an individual electronic connection to the global communications  
19 network.  
20

21          23.     A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of  
22 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:  
23         calculating for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a shipping rate for  
24 each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a  
25 particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global  
26 communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer  
27 device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.  
28

29          24.     A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of

1 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:  
2 determining for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a delivery  
3 schedule for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for  
4 shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global  
5 communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer  
6 device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

7  
8 25. A method using a computer system for displaying to each of a plurality of  
9 users upon each user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a  
10 particular package, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global  
11 communications network using a client computer device, each user having an individual  
12 electronic connection to the global communications network, said method comprising  
13 calculating for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers  
14 a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel according to a set of parcel characteristics  
15 shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set of pricing rules for each  
16 particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set of parcel specifications  
17 for the particular parcel input by the particular user and as applied to an origin postal code  
18 and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and  
19 generating an online comparison display of the calculated shipping rates to a display  
20 monitor configured with the client computer device of the particular user.

21  
22 26. The method of Claim 25, said method further comprising:  
23 determining a delivery schedule for each of the plurality of services offered by each  
24 of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel .

25  
26 27. The method of Claim 26 wherein the generated online comparison display  
27 further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the services for delivering the  
28 particular package.

1           28.     A method using a computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping  
2 each of a plurality of parcels to be shipped by one of a plurality of users according to a  
3 plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global  
4 communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer device  
5 having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network, said  
6 method comprising:

7           collecting as parcel specifications for a particular parcel a user input from one of the  
8 plurality of users wherein said user input comprising at least one of: a package type, package  
9 dimensions, package weight, and a value of the particular parcel;

10          collecting from the particular user a user input of an origin zip code and an exemplary  
11 destination zip code; and

12          generating an online comparison display to a display monitor configured with the user  
13 client computer device of the particular user a preview of shipping rates for a plurality of  
14 services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the particular parcel wherein said  
15 preview shipping rates are calculated according to a set of parcel characteristics shipping  
16 rules for each of the plurality of carriers and according to a set of pricing rules for each of the  
17 plurality of services offered by each particular carrier as applied to the parcel specifications  
18 and as applied to the origin zip code and the exemplary destination zip code.

19  
20          29.     A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of  
21 parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:

22          comparing each shipping rate for shipping a particular parcel with each of a plurality  
23 of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a shipping rate for shipping the  
24 particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by each of a  
25 plurality of carriers.

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27          30.     The method of Claim 29, said method further comprising:

28          determining the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.  
29

1           31.     The method of Claim 30, said method further comprising:  
2           generating a report of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate.

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4           32.     The method of Claim 31 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that  
5           offer the lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.

6  
7           33.     The method of Claim 31 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that  
8           offer the lowest shipping rate comprises an audible announcement.

9  
10          34.     The method of Claim 31 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a  
11          graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate and of  
12          the shipping rate.

13  
14          35.     The method of Claim 31 wherein said report comprises an audible  
15          announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate and of  
16          the shipping rate.

17  
18          36.     A method using a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of  
19          parcels shipped by any one of a plurality of carriers, the method comprising:  
20                  comparing each delivery schedule for shipping a particular parcel with each of a  
21          plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers with a delivery schedule for  
22          shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the plurality of services offered by  
23          each of a plurality of carriers.

24  
25          37.     The method of Claim 36, said method further comprising:  
26          determining the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule.

27  
28          38.     The method of Claim 37, said method further comprising:  
29          generating a report of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery

1 schedule.

2  
3 39. The method of Claim 38 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that  
4 offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual display.

5  
6 40. The method of Claim 38 wherein said report of the service and the carrier that  
7 offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible announcement.

8  
9 41. The method of Claim 38 wherein said report comprises a visual display of a  
10 graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule  
11 and of the delivery schedule.

12  
13 42. The method of Claim 38 wherein said report comprises an audible  
14 announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule  
15 and of the delivery schedule.

16  
17 43. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for  
18 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by  
19 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:  
20 a set of program instructions for displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each  
21 user's request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package,  
22 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network  
23 using a client computer device, wherein each user having an individual electronic connection  
24 to the global communications network.

25  
26 44. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for  
27 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by  
28 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:  
29 a set of program instructions for calculating for each of a plurality of users upon each

1 user's request a shipping rate for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality  
2 of carriers for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system  
3 over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user  
4 client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global  
5 communications network.

6  
7 45. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for  
8 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by  
9 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

10 a set of program instructions for determining for each of a plurality of users upon  
11 each user's request a delivery schedule for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a  
12 plurality of carriers for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer  
13 system over a global communications network using a client computer device, wherein each  
14 user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global  
15 communications network.

16  
17 46. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for  
18 execution by a computer system for displaying to each of a plurality of users upon each user's  
19 request a preview of shipping rates for the particular user to ship a particular package,  
20 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network  
21 using a client computer device, each user having an individual electronic connection to the  
22 global communications network, said computer program product comprising:

23 a set of program instructions for calculating for each of a plurality of services offered  
24 by each of a plurality of carriers a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel according  
25 to a set of parcel characteristics shipping rules for the particular carrier and according to a set  
26 of pricing rules for each particular service offered by the particular carrier as applied to a set  
27 of parcel specifications for the particular parcel input by the particular user and as applied to  
28 an origin postal code and a destination postal code input by the particular user; and

29 a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display of the

1 calculated shipping rates to a display monitor configured with the client computer device of  
2 the particular user.

3  
4 47. The computer program product of Claim 46, said computer program product  
5 further comprising:

6 a set of program instructions for determining a delivery schedule for each of the  
7 plurality of services offered by each of the plurality of carriers for shipping the particular  
8 parcel .

9  
10 48. The computer program product of Claim 47 wherein the generated online  
11 comparison display further comprises a schedule of delivery times for each of the services for  
12 delivering the particular package.

13  
14 49. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for  
15 execution by a computer system for previewing shipping rates for shipping each of a plurality  
16 of parcels to be shipped by one of a plurality of users according to a plurality of carriers,  
17 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network  
18 using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual  
19 electronic connection to the global communications network, said computer program product  
20 comprising:

21 a set of program instructions for collecting as parcel specifications for a particular  
22 parcel a user input from one of the plurality of users wherein said user input comprising at  
23 least one of: a package type, package dimensions, package weight, and a value of the  
24 particular parcel;

25 a set of program instructions for collecting from the particular user a user input of an  
26 origin zip code and an exemplary destination zip code; and

27 a set of program instructions for generating an online comparison display to a display  
28 monitor configured with the user client computer device of the particular user a preview of  
29 shipping rates for a plurality of services offered by a plurality of carriers for shipping the

1 particular parcel wherein said preview shipping rates are calculated according to a set of  
2 parcel characteristics shipping rules for each of the plurality of carriers and according to a set  
3 of pricing rules for each of the plurality of services offered by each particular carrier as  
4 applied to the parcel specifications and as applied to the origin zip code and the exemplary  
5 destination zip code.  
6

7 50. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for  
8 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by  
9 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:

10 a set of program instructions for comparing each shipping rate for shipping a  
11 particular parcel with each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers  
12 with a shipping rate for shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the plurality  
13 of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers.  
14

15 51. The computer program product of Claim 50, said computer program product  
16 further comprising:

17 a set of program instructions for determining the service and the carrier that offer the  
18 lowest shipping rate.  
19

20 52. The computer program product of Claim 51, said computer program product  
21 further comprising:

22 a set of program instructions for generating a report of the service and the carrier that  
23 offer the lowest shipping rate.  
24

25 53. The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report of the service  
26 and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises a visual display.  
27

28 54. The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report of the service  
29 and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping rate comprises an audible announcement.

1  
2           55.     The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report comprises a  
3 visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the lowest  
4 shipping rate and of the shipping rate.

5  
6           56.     The computer program product of Claim 52 wherein said report comprises an  
7 audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the lowest shipping  
8 rate and of the shipping rate.

9  
10          57.     A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for  
11 execution by a computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels shipped by  
12 any one of a plurality of carriers, the computer program product comprising:  
13           a set of program instructions for comparing each delivery schedule for shipping a  
14 particular parcel with each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers  
15 with a delivery schedule for shipping the particular parcel with each other service of the  
16 plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers.

17  
18          58.     The computer program product of Claim 57, said computer program product  
19 further comprising:  
20           a set of program instructions for determining the service and the carrier that offer the  
21 earliest delivery schedule.

22  
23          59.     The computer program product of Claim 58, said computer program product  
24 further comprising:  
25           generating a report of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery  
26 schedule.

27  
28          60.     The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report of the service  
29 and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises a visual display.

1  
2           61.     The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report of the service  
3 and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery schedule comprises an audible announcement.  
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5           62.     The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report comprises a  
6 visual display of a graphic representation of the service and the carrier that offer the earliest  
7 delivery schedule and of the delivery schedule.  
8

9           63.     The computer program product of Claim 59 wherein said report comprises an  
10 audible announcement of the name of service and the carrier that offer the earliest delivery  
11 schedule and of the delivery schedule.  
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